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JAZZ FESTIVAL NOTES

Yannick Rieu has a change of heart after getting an award

JOHN KENNEY THE GAZETTE
Wayne Shorter plays at Théatre Maisonneuve last night.

Thursday

A wink-wink sense of irony prevailed when **Yannick Rieu** accepted the festival's Oscar Peterson Prize, awarded to worthy Canadian jazzpersons. Not so long ago Rieu railed against the festival for ignoring the local scene: "I don't regret what I said, but maybe today I'd say it, uh, differently."

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

Ravi Coltrane, son of saxophonist John Coltrane, was seemingly unaffected by the weight of his father's legacy. He was a fountain of ideas at the Gesù, delivering complex melodic and rhythmic motifs in an almost casual, conversational style, with strong support from bassist **Drew Gress**, drummer **E.J. Strickland** and pianist **Luis Perdomo**.

PETER HADEKEL

Is there anything more life-affirming than the fatigue high of a post-midnight show by **Ralph Myerz and the Jack Herren Band**? At Club Soda, these three crazy Norwegians, juggling a small arsenal of digital sounds behind them – shook the walls with their beat-heavy, trance-inducing soundscapes. Those who weren't free-form dancing risked whiplash by rapid torso movement in time with the music.

BERNARD PERUSSE

"It would really help us if you dance," said California DJ **Cheb I Sabbah**. By the end, he and his two percussionists had put the early-evening crowd into an exuberant trance with their worldly mix of Middle Eastern, African, Indian and techno sounds.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

Over at Metropolis, Montreal rock act **the Dears** staged a triumphant return, playing from their upcoming album Gang of Losers, showing how they have earned their spot on the international stage. This was thrillingly ambitious rock, replete with dramatic arrangements, moving melodies and a newfound sense of release.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

Friday

A soloist in Dave Holland's Quintet, **Chris Potter** led a quartet at the Gesù that straddled the lines between funk, jazz, fusion and space music. Keyboardist Craig Taborn was unable to match his intensity, but Adam Rogers on guitar and Nate Smith on drums helped to carry through odd-metered tunes.

PETER HADEKEL

At the Gesù, Rieu put on a program reflecting his varied career and could only be described as sublime art music. Rieu exhibited a mastery of the piano and the idiom, improv that expresses The Search. **François Bourassa**'s romantic pianism gave the ensemble harmonic magic that lingered long after the last note.

IRWIN BLOCK

If you wandered into a lonely hotel bar 'round about midnight and heard **Anjani** sing the pithy philosophical country-styled songs of Leonard Cohen, you might think you had arrived at a Twin Peaks state of mind. But at Cabaret Juste pour rire, the atmosphere was a little contrived. Her wafting tunes would be at home in elevators, supermarkets and lounges around the world. The weird thing is, they offer perfect sanctuary to Cohen's romantic win-some-lose-some aphorisms.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

French guitarist **Biréli Lagrène** continued his five-part Invitation Series at the Théâtre Jean-Duceppe and displayed uncommon virtuosity on a set of standards. He just loves that Gibson guitar and you could hear every note on the hall's superb acoustics. He shared the spotlight with **Joey De Francesco**, the Hammond B-3 virtuoso who is clearly and joyously the successor to Jimmy Smith. With drummer **André Ceccareli**, this was good-time, straight ahead stuff that, yes, soars when played by true masters.

IRWIN BLOCK

BROWNSTEIN Rubberman turns his – and your – tummy

CONTINUED FROM A18

But do know that they thoroughly amused most mortals who caught their antics this week.

What to make of an act, aptly called the English Gents? Attired in three-piece pinstripe suits and bowler hats, the Gents maintain a stiff upper lip all the while performing the most daunting of acrobatic feats – which appear to defy laws of physics.

Irish crooner Camille O'Sullivan then hits the stage – a circular stage, by the way, with a diameter of no more than eight feet – and evokes memories of Liza Minnelli à la Cabaret and Rickie Lee Jones à la all the time with her fetching though decidedly other-worldly incantations.

On the subject of other-worldly, there's Norwegian contortionist Captain Frodo – or Rubberman, as he calls himself – who turns his tummy and quite possibly yours, too, with his tennis-racket shtick and, later, with his astounding balancing act while sitting atop a pile of small, precariously placed pails.

Following her astonishing magic act, the statuesque Ursula Martinez puts her clothes on and gives some hilarious flamenco-flavoured Spanish lessons, rich in sexual nuance, of course.

What would a twisted revue be without a hula-hoop act? But Yulia Pikhtina goes where few would dare to go with the hoop.

And as much as Martinez and Pikhtina might have excited some in the audience, British acrobat David O'Mer, fresh from performing for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, had others breathing heavily with his wet and wild and dazzling acrobatics emanating from a bathtub.

But not all went down quite as well. OK, Miss Behave did manage to get an ominous-looking sword to go down her gullet without gagging, but she left some wanting to spill their innards in the process. She is apparently one of only two female sword swallowers in the world, and I think I can safely deduce few in the audience are in a great rush to catch the other one just yet.

La Clique is running until July 30 at the Just for Laughs Museum, 5th floor, 2111 St. Laurent Blvd. Tickets are $25 to $55.50. Call 514-845-2322 or 514-790-1245, or go to www.hahaha.com.

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best bets

A SELECTION OF EVENTS HAPPENING TODAY

JAZZ

Pianist Min Rager and her quintet, featuring trumpeter Kevin Dean, kick off the big closing night at the Off Festival de Jazz at 8 at Lion d'Or, 1676 Ontario St. E. It continues with trombonist Jean-Nicolas Trottier and his big band, and ends with a jam session fronted by the Mile End Jazz Quartet. Tickets cost $22. **Call 514-598-0709. (Irwin Block)**

FAMILY

A soccer-skills event for all ages takes place at Complexe Multi-Sports, 955 Bois de Boulogne Ave. in Laval, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Adidas +10 World Cup Tour offers games and activities that test soccer abilities. You can also participate in what is being billed as "the world's largest human foosball game." Admission is free. **Visit www.adidassoccer.ca. (Kathryn Greenaway)**

Our comprehensive listings package in the Preview section is meant to be kept for use throughout the week. To see our complete online listings, go to www.montrealgazette.com and click on the City Guides: Montreal link. You can search by venue, events, date and category.

ANSWER TO CHALLENGER A27

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2	6	9	9	26
2	7	1	6	16
9	1	8	6	24
15	15	25	29	15

ANSWER TO WHATZIT? A27

Poison ivy

What's on?
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deflagrate
DEF-luh-grayt
DEFINITION: to burn rapidly with intense heat and sparks being given off
Certain materials, such as black powder, will deflagrate rather than cause a violent explosion when they are ignited.
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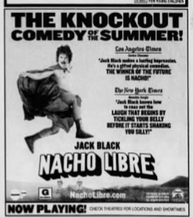

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